

Examiner's Amendment to the Specification

[1] An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Ms. Robin Teskin on 9/26/10.

[2] In the amendment filed on 8/27/02 to page 1 of the specification, please delete the phrase, "The contents of all the above-identified patent applications are incorporated herein by reference to the extent they are consistent with this application and the inventions described herein".

Examiner's Amendment to the Claims

[3] An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Ms. Robin L. Teskin on 9/14/10, 9/21/10, and 9/25/10.

[4] In claim 30, replace "The" in the phrase "The method" with "A".

[5] In claim 36, replace "to a pH less than or equal to 5.0" with "at least to pH 5.0".

[6] Cancel claim 41.

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[7] In claim 43, replace “1” in the phrase “The method of claim 1” with “30”.

Updated Form PTO-1449

[8] In preparing this application for allowance, it has come to the examiner's attention that Form PTO-1449 mailed on 10/9/03 does not list a publication date for reference 15. To remedy this omission, the examiner has attached an updated copy of this Form PTO-1449, noting the publication date of reference 15.

Reasons for Allowance

[9] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments presented in the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, filed on 8/30/10, are found persuasive and the outstanding obviousness rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are withdrawn.

[10] Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Steadman whose telephone number is 571-272-0942. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manjunath Rao can be reached on 571-272-0939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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/David J. Steadman/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1656